



Dear fellow Arkansans,

America's Purple Heart recipients deserve every honor we can bestow upon them for their sacrifice.

That's why today [I introduced a Senate Resolution](#) to designate August 7, 2009, as "National Purple Heart Recognition Day" in honor of our nation's Purple Heart recipients and their families.

My father and both grandfathers served our nation in uniform and taught me from an early age about the sacrifices our troops and their families make to keep our nation free. In honor of them and of all military men and women, I have fought throughout my career to ensure our nation's military service members, veterans, and their families receive the benefits, care, and recognition they have earned and certainly deserve.

Also today [I submitted a statement](#) into the Congressional Record expressing my appreciation for the Arkansas women who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) during World War II.

WASPs were America's first women to fly military aircraft and are a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans. I am proud of these women from Arkansas, and from all over the United States, who served our country under dangerous and difficult circumstances. While we can never fully express the extent of our appreciation for their service, Congress will now recognize the WASPs with the Congressional Gold Medal. I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill authorizing this recognition, and I am happy that Congress will bestow this long-overdue honor.

With Arkansas Pride,

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